
Rethinking What Can Realistically Be Accomplished This Session

1 message

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The thinking around modernizing Public Safety communications and task identification is getting muddled into the questions of who will be taking lead, who will control the \$20M, who will convene what governing or advisory only decision making body, and who will do what, if anything, toward setting up new dispatching capacity to relieve DPS in the next year or so.

Retaining experts to guide the process is Task Number 1.

Convening a Real Statewide Governance Body is Task Number 2.

Completing preliminary statewide plans detailing what is State vs Local Tasks is #3.

The E911 Board Staff is capable and well functioning.

The E911 Board is pretty useless and has fought this for years.

There is RFP, plan review and grants management capacity at DPS.

There are both Radio Technology Planning / Operations capacities at DPS.

There is GIS, cellular site inventory and database capacity at E911

There is Rulemaking process capacity at E911

There is project management and expert review capacity at ADS

What is need now is Subject Matter Experts to complete:

- Inventory and Assessments of all regional radio systems
- Geographic surveys of LMR and LTE coverage and dead zones
- Assistance in convening Regional Governing Boards to plan
- Modeling of financial costs, both capital and operational
- Engineering resilience and Failover among pilot dispatch centers.

Three RFPs should be issued immediately upon passage of a bill:

1. Strategic Plan for Statewide Interoperable Communications, including state vs regional roles and duties, compilation of current dispatching costs, fees and call volumes, staffing capacity, training, recruitment and site assessments for how many existing or proposed sites is optimum from both cost and resilience perspectives.
2. Assessments of Radio Systems, towers, backhaul, power backup and Coverage, including logical regional boundary identification based on topography and radio propagation, LMR and LTE infill designs, resilience and failover engineering, including both failover to neighboring region(s) and failover to state facilities.
3. Proposals from Regions for Grant to support convening governance, engaging with state SMEs in completing inventories and plans, projecting operations and staffing budgets, PSAP/Dispatch site selection, operations, maintenance and testing.